

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 877

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas H. Hensley of Erwin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas H. Hensley of Erwin; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary citizen and consummate professional, Mr. Hensley worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Erwin, Thomas Hensley was the son of Holt Hensley and Estelle Blankenship Hensley, who preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns in the defense of our Nation, Mr. Hensley served with courage and gallantry as a member of the United States Air Force during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Hensley held the distinction of being the longest-serving public servant in Unicoi County at the time of his passing, having served with acumen and alacrity as the Unicoi County Register of Deeds from 1958 to 1970, and as Unicoi County Trustee from 1970 to 1994, from which he retired after 24 years of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to public service, Mr. Hensley continued to serve his fellow citizens through his work as a Deputy for the Unicoi County Sheriff's Department, and he also served most capably as a safe and conscientious driver for Trailways Transportation System; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Thomas Hensley was a valued member of the Erwin Kiwanis, for which he stood as Treasurer for many years, and was a distinguished Hixson Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hensley was also an avid bowler, and his competitors fondly recall his great sportsmanship and love of the game; and

WHEREAS, as an active and devout member of Ninth Street Baptist Church, he served the congregation in a number of roles, including Banking Treasurer and member of the Goodwill Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Hensley was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 60 years, Erma Mae Kitzmiller Hensley; his brother, Holt Hensley, Jr.; and his sister, Bernice Hutchins; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by two sons, Tom Hensley, Jr., and wife Karen, and Mike Hensley and wife Kathy; a daughter, Susan Sherfey; grandchildren, Amy Hensley and husband Donnie, Brandy Putman and husband Kenneth, Rachel Lewis and husband Jason, Ethan Hensley, Paige Williams and husband Brad, Adam Hensley, Heather Stanford and husband Jon, Justin Bennett, Josh Sherfey, Bethany Sherfey, and Mark Mussler; and a number of great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Hensley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional veteran, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the life and memory of Thomas H. Hensley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hensley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.